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TEHRAN 5245

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Z 210032Z MAY 79
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO RUEBQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0101
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1563
RUSBLI/AMEMBASSY KABUL 0114
BT
S E C R E T TEHRAN 05246

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CLASS: SECRET
CHRG: STATE 5/21/79
APPRV: CHARGE: CWNAA5
DRYTD: POL: DMCGAFFET:P
CLEAR: POL: VTOMSETH
DISTR: CHG POL-3 OR
ECON ICA BY

File Afghanistan
E.O. 12065: IGDS45/21/09 (MC GAFFET, DAVID G.) OR-P
TAGS: PEPR, IR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: LIMITED IRANIAN RESPONSE TO AFGHAN REBEL APPEAL

REF: TEHRAN 5208

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: AFGHAN FUND RAISER MASSRY REPORTED SOME ASSISTANCE FROM IRANIANS, TALK OF "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE." REPORTS 30-35,000 AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. END SUMMARY.

3. AMCIT AFGHAN ZIA MASSRY CALLED POLOFF MAY 21 TO REPORT RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH IRANIAN AUTHORITIES. HE STATES THAT HE DID TRAVEL TO QOM AND MET WITH AYATOLLAH KHOMZINI. HE SAID THEIR TALK WAS FRIENDLY, BUT NOT TOO PRODUCTIVE. HE WAS ASKING FOR ARMS ASSISTANCE, AND THE AYATOLLAH SPOKE INSTEAD OF "HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE." HE SPOKE AGAIN WITH AYATOLLAH KHALEHALI, WHO SAID THAT THIS "COULD BE A BEGINNING." HE DID NOT MEET WITH FOMMIN YAZDI, BUT INSTEAD MET WITH MR. TAGHAVI, CHIEF OF THE MFA SECTION DEALING WITH AFGHANISTAN, AND HAS A SECOND MEETING SCHEDULED WITH HIM IN APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS.

4. YESTERDAY, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, AYATOLLAH ROHANI, A MAJOR RELIGIOUS FIGURE AND CLOSE RELATIVE OF KHOMEINI, CALLED ON THE AFGHAN PEOPLE TO REVOLT AGAINST THEIR GOVERNMENT AS THE IRANIANS DID HERE. HE URGED THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE IN AFGHANISTAN TO ASSIST MUSLIMS. SUCH STATEMENTS BY UNOFFICIAL, SECOND-LEVEL FIGURES, CARRY LITTLE WEIGHT UNTIL THEY ARE CONFIRMED EITHER BY KHOMEINI OR BY THE GOVERNMENT.

5. MASSRY STATES THAT THE PQOI DID ASSIST HIM IN CONTACTING AFGHAN REFUGEES IN IRAN. HE TRAVELLED TO MASHAD, WHERE THE AFGHANS HAVE A SMALL OFFICE, AND WAS ESCORTED TO THE REFUGEE CAMPS. HE STATES THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 32-35,000 AFGHANS LOCATED IN AN AREA STRETCHING TWENTY MILES ALONG THE BORDER FROM THE TOWN OF TYBAD, SOUTH OF MASHAD. MOST ARE SHEPHERD FAMILIES, WITH THEIR FLOCKS, AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF FODDER, MANY HAVE ALREADY RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN. INCLUDED IN THE NUMBER, HOWEVER, ARE OVER ONE HUNDRED AFGHAN MILITARY OFFICERS—GROUND FORCES, ARTILLERY, AND AIR FORCE. THESE ARE ATTEMPTING TO TRAIN A GUERRILLA FORCE (MOST MALE REFUGEES HAVE PERSONALLY-OWNED RIFLES) AND, MASSRY SAYS, ARE CONDUCTING SOME OPERATIONS INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. MASSRY HOPES THAT THE IRANIANS

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WILL AT LEAST TAKE THE BURDEN OF THE ACTUAL REFUGEES OFF THE HANDS OF THE OFFICERS, FREEING THEM FOR MORE TRAINING AND OPERATIONS.

6. MASSRY INTENDS TO TRAVEL TOMORROW TO PAKISTAN, AND WILL PLAN TO RETURN TO IRAN AFTER APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK THERE. NAAS

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